

Frettenham Primary School
Hainford Primary School
Horsford Primary School
Old Catton Junior School
White Woman Lane School
St. Faiths' Primary School



Nebula
where stars are born

Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for not only your support but also your flexibility in coping last week with what was a fairly intense and concerning week, both in education and more globally. I know that change can be difficult for everyone, especially for some of our young people – as well as for parents and education staff. Nevertheless, we have collectively managed a move to a different form of education as positively as possible, and despite some teething problems in some areas, I think we are now fairly well established in both remote and on site provision.

Apologies in advance for the length of this letter, it has turned out to be a bit of a novel of 'War and Peace' proportions, but I wanted to make sure that I had let you know about a variety of things as soon as possible.

Remote Learning

Thank you for supporting the remote learning provision so effectively in these first few days. As you will be aware, schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning.

Early indications are that attendance and engagement are excellent across the schools and that the live lesson/session format works fairly well. I know that many parents will be working from home as well as supervising a number of siblings – so that a more formal timetable of lessons has been welcomed. Given that this style of learning is likely to continue for some time, we hope that we can work together to maintain the level of engagement.

We have had some technical issues and I think this may continue for a little while until everything that can be sorted, is sorted ... apologies in advance. I hope that any problems will ease. We know that most pupils have been able to access their live lessons using Microsoft Teams but a reminder that if you have a password or access issue, please contact your child's school for support.

Our remote learning provision

- All of the remote learning provision is provided via the following platforms - Microsoft Teams, Seesaw and Tapestry.
- Work is set as per timetable and follows the same curriculum content as would be delivered in school.
- Teachers deliver the curriculum and lessons remotely either by setting tasks, which are assessed and monitored, or via Microsoft Teams.
- Some teaching sessions will be live. Your child will receive an invitation to these sessions.

- Pupils are expected to engage in their remote learning during the day as much as possible and to follow as far as possible a normal routine.
- In some subjects, pupils will access work through links provided to websites such as Spelling Shed or TT Rockstars for example. Pupils have been provided with login details for these resources. Teachers can assist with question relating to access during online sessions.
- Our approach takes into account the multiple demands placed upon families at this time for example access to devices and demands on parents.

We are proud of the rich and varied curriculum that we offer at each of the schools in the federation and will try to replicate this as well as possible at home.

We will also be providing some further guidance on feedback and assessment for remote learning in the coming weeks to ensure that we are able to monitor progress effectively as well as to engage pupils and parents in reviewing the work undertaken.

What you can do to help – Our Top Tips

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable or a routine
- Where possible, children should have a quiet space where they can work without interruption.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active
- Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you are having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact us via the school office.

Online safety

With children and young people relying on their tech at home for learning and entertainment during lockdown, it remains vital to keep conversations about online safety going and raise awareness of reporting routes if something goes wrong.

Please find below a link to some home packs that you can use to support your child's online safety at home. The packs are available for ages 4 to 14+. Video guides on different online safety topics are also available for parents to watch:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=c96a649dde-TUK GLOBAL 12 11 20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-c96a649dde-54973785

Access to Technology

Much work has already been done to ensure that identified families and children have access to appropriate technology for remote learning. We are providing many of our schools' own devices to help families who may not have any appropriate devices at home or have multiple children at home. We have increased the availability of devices to loan out to families who need them, thanks in part to a successful charitable bid to the Alderman Norman Foundation.

As yet, the majority of our schools have not received any of the devices the Government scheme promised to primary schools.

Many of our pupils and families are also finding ingenious ways to participate in the live lessons, including using phones as personal hotspots and screen mirroring from phones to TVs. We are aware that games consoles can be used to access some elements of remote learning and there is an article from the Times Education Supplement on this subject here:

<https://www.tes.com/news/how-use-xbox-or-playstation-online-learning>

We know that family circumstances can change, so if technology does become a barrier to accessing home learning, please do contact your child's school and we will try to help where we can.

Increased Mobile Data Allowances for Remote Learning

We have some free SIM cards that we can provide which will increase your mobile data allowance to enable you to support your child's remote learning at home. Please contact your child's school if this would be helpful for you to try in the first instance.

We understand that for some mobile phones and providers, the SIM card may not work. The Government has also worked in partnership with mobile phone companies to allow schools to request increased data allowances for pupils, to assist with remote learning where there is not suitable broadband provision in place.

This can only be requested through schools and we are happy to do this on your behalf. Please do be aware that once we have registered the details, we do not run this system and are aware that it can take some time for phone companies to process requests. There will be a text message sent directly to parents by phone companies / networks when the additional data has been activated.

To process the request we need:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Please send these details to your child's school and we will send off the details at the earliest opportunity.

Free Literature Resources

In addition to the timetabled remote learning, we would also encourage students to continue to explore reading for pleasure throughout lockdown. There are also a number of resources, available for free, which may be useful to promote interest in a range of literature.

- Audible have extended their offer of free audiobook access for children and young people- no account needed- just a completely free access library of audiobooks:
<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>
- 'The Book of Hopes' (again this was published during the last lockdown). It is a book of short stories, contributed to by well over 100 top children's/Young Adult writers and illustrators- available for free:
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Assembly

John Hindley, Pastor of Broadgrace Church, is a foundation governor of the Nebula Federation of schools. Each week, he has been recording an assembly that can be shared with the children. He has kindly agreed that I may share the link with you to his most recent assembly for your children to watch whilst they are at home. Here is this week's assembly: <https://youtu.be/lKhblf-CR2s>

Free School Meals

We are once again totally committed to supporting families in need at this current time. We are providing weekly food boxes for eligible families. The contents of the box follow guidance from the Government and recommendations from LACA (The School Food People) to ensure it adheres to the School Food Standards.

All eligible families will be contacted to arrange collection of the boxes from the school. We are not routinely able to arrange delivery, but would do so in exceptional circumstances. For any enquiries or further information, or if you believe you may be eligible for free school meals, please contact your child's school office.



Positive Coronavirus Tests

If an individual who is attending school on site tests positive, we will of course follow all contact tracing procedures as we did prior to this lockdown. Please do continue to report all positive test results to your child's school. We will continue to monitor cases and of course send all best wishes to the individuals and families affected.

Kind words

I suspect that is probably more than enough information for this week!

Thank you for all of your support of your children's education. In particular, thank you for all of your thoughtful and compassionate messages and the positive emails that you have sent to school staff regarding the teaching and learning they are providing for both children in school and at home. Kindness is what we all need at the moment and it really does mean so much to everyone in the schools to receive such kind and generous words.

I hope that you, your family and loved ones remain safe and well.

A. D. Best-White

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The Nebula Federation